

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

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UC-35 detachment returns from deployment

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A detachment of Marines from Miramar returned from a seven-month deployment, Oct. 4, after supporting operations in Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan.

While deployed, Miramar Flight Division's nine-man detachment, consisting of two enlisted Marines, five officers and two civilians, assisted in the transport of high-profile passengers and cargo, according to Lt. Col. Russell D. Pharris, detachment officer-in-charge, MFD, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

"We flew missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, moving high-profile passengers," said Pharris, a 43-year-old Hagerman, Idaho, native. "Most of our time was spent in Afghanistan."

"We flew anyone from E-5 to general," Pharris added. "One of our high-profile flights was transporting the deputy for Central Command."

The detachment flies a UC-35D, more commonly known as a Citation. The aircraft is manufactured by the Cessna Corporation and has several modifications to accommo-

date the extreme flight demands the Marine Corps places on the aircraft.

"The UC-35 is an off-the-shelf version of the aircraft used by civilians for transporting executives from corporations," said Capt. Michael T. Martin, pilot, MFD. "This plane is the newest of the Cessna 500-series."

Not all pilots or crew are from MCAS Miramar.

"Some of our pilots and aircrew augmented from different organizations throughout the Marine Corps," added Martin. "Major Pete McConnell came to us from New Orleans and Maj. Matt Gaier is a reservist from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland."

The detachment is unique and their mission is diverse. They are the only flying squadron aboard the air station that belongs specifically to the air station and not a Marine aircraft wing.

"The primary mission may be VIP and material transport, but we serve other purposes," said Martin. "A general may be high profile, but we also transport maintenance recovery teams, which are also important. If a Hornet blows a tire landing somewhere, we will fly a team to fix the problem."

"Sending a Citation relieves the burden from other tactical assets like a C-130 or



Pilots and crew from Miramar Flight Division, the air station's only flying squadron not belonging to a Marine aircraft wing, pose for a photo, Oct. 4, after their homecoming at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The Marines augmented 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing for seven months and flew missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

something from one of the helicopter squadrons," he continued. "This leaves them the ability to continue training."

With their first deployment under their belt, the Marines are gearing up to possibly

head out in the near future.

"We had a unique opportunity to support 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing," Martin said. "Perhaps we will be going back in a year's time."

New Joint Chiefs chairman sees military 'shaping the future'

Story by Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The war on terror underlies every word in the Chairman's Guidance to the Joint Staff.

General Peter Pace, who took office as the 16th Joint Chiefs chairman on Sept. 30, issued the guidance so members of the Joint Staff would understand his priorities and focus on what he considers important in the coming years, said defense officials.

Pace reiterates in a number of places in the guidance that he considers the war on terror to be winnable, but will be "a war of long duration."

Pace's guidance is subtitled "Shaping the Future." He said that while the emphasis must be on the war on terror, the U.S. military must be ready for any eventuality.

Pace's priorities are concise and mutually supporting. At the top is winning the war on terror.

"Our enemies are violent extremists who would deny us, and all mankind, the freedom to choose our own destiny," Pace wrote in the guidance. "Finding this distributed, loosely networked enemy is the greatest challenge we face."

The U.S. will meet and beat the enemy on the battle-

field, but that is not enough, he said. Building better economies, encouraging good government and assisting governments as they live by the rule of law will help the world shape "an environment that precludes the flourishing of terrorism, much as a healthy body rejects the onslaught of disease."

The United States must harness all elements of national and international power to stop terrorists and stop young people from wanting to join jihadist organizations. "My military advice to our nation's leaders will favor recommendations that integrate and coordinate our efforts with the work of others fighting this war," Pace wrote. "Through closer coordination within the Department of Defense and inter-agency (cooperation) we maximize the impact of our military power and build trust, synergy and momentum."

His second priority is to speed up transformation processes within the military. Changing the old mindset is the most important aspect of this change. He wrote that at its heart, transformation "is a willingness on the part of the individual and the organization to embrace innovation and accept analyzed risk."



General Peter Pace addresses a crowd Sept. 30 at the Armed Forces Farewell Tribute and Armed Forces Hail ceremony at Fort Myer, Va., after becoming the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first Marine to hold the post. Official Department of Defense Photo

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Wills make wishes known

Story by Jennifer Dyer Cornelissen

Life is full of uncertainty, but preparing a will ensures that your loved ones will be provided for in your absence. Yet some Sailors and Marines may not make a will because they dread the process or don't think they need one. In fact, making your last will and testament doesn't have to be an expensive ordeal, and it can have a big impact.

Your last will and testament is a legal document that spells out how your property will be distributed in the event of your death. There are significant advantages to having a will. Instead of a judge making important decisions without your input, you decide beforehand the division of your assets, the guardian of your children and the state of your legal residence. In contrast, when you die without a will, your property may be split among relatives, the court may choose a guardian for your children and your residency may be subject to litigation.

If you are single, have no children and want your estate to go to your next of kin, then a will may not be necessary. Most states have provisions that automatically distribute the property of single, childless people to their parents if they die without a will. However, you definitely need a will if you are married or have children.

You should also prepare a will if you wish to make specific bequests to relatives or friends or if you are in a high-risk occupation. The Navy and Marine Corps strongly encourage all servicemembers to prepare a will.

Military legal offices offer free preparation of simple wills. You can even write a will online for as little as \$20.

However, Maj. Kerry Barnsly of the Camp Lejeune legal office recommends that you have an attorney review any self-prepared documents to ensure their validity.

Consult a civilian attorney for more complex legal matters, such as establishing a trust for minor children. Private legal help starts at \$50 but increases with an estate's complexity. Legal resources and self-education are also available online.

When you prepare your will, keep these tips in mind:

- Choose an executor who can and will administer your estate properly
- Make specific bequests for significant property or heirlooms
- Consider the will's permanence. Don't make hasty decisions
- Pets are personal property and may be left to a beneficiary

Although a will doesn't expire, you should update it whenever a major event occurs in your life, such as a marriage, divorce, birth, adoption or death. Legal experts recommend that you review important documents yearly to be sure that they are up to date.

Also known as a "durable healthcare directive," a living will specifies who will make decisions for you and what extraordinary measures should be taken on your behalf if you become seriously ill and are not physically capable of making decisions.

Without a living will, the court may appoint a guardian to handle your affairs. It's a smart idea to prepare a living will in addition to your last will and testament.

With increased operational commitments due to the war on terrorism, most servicemembers would benefit from preparing a will. "Uncertainty regarding disposition of property may have unfortunate results if the law doesn't conform to the decedent's wishes," says California attorney Skip Lloyd. In the unlikely event of your death, advance planning takes the burden of proof away from your heirs.

Nurture marriage while deployed

Story by Kelli Kirwan

Marriage is not always easy or smooth sailing. For the Sailor or Marine and his or her family, it's even more complicated. Deployment will test even the strongest of marriages. Military marriages definitely weather some storms, but take heart - they often come through stronger than before.

Finances are a big stressor in marriage. Iron out the details of how you'll both receive the funds you need before your Sailor or Marine leaves. Set up any allotments necessary and stick to the arrangements. If one of you has to dip into the other's account, make sure you get word to that person as soon as possible.

Sharing information and good communication is important even in a marriage that never sees separation, so it's especially true for couples who sometimes have an ocean between them. Keeping one another involved is key, but tact and timing are everything.

There's nothing more frustrating or worrisome for a Sailor or Marine than to receive an e-mail, telephone call or letter about a catastrophe that they can do absolutely nothing about. That doesn't mean you don't share, it just means you tell them the whole story — beginning, middle and end — all at once. Your Sailor or Marine knows that life

will have its ups and downs. If you share only the good days, they may start wondering what you're hiding. But consider how what you write or say will affect them so far from home and unable to help.

In your darkest moments during a deployment, try to share those feelings and emotions in a journal that you keep for your Sailor or Marine to read when they return. The journal should include the good and the bad. This will give you an avenue to vent, and it will let your spouse see through your eyes how much your heart ached for them.

If they can keep a deployment journal for you, it will help you understand what they go through and what life is like for them in a sometimes all-work environment. Seeing each other's side after you're both back together can help you develop a new respect for one another. It doesn't hurt to have you close by for a hug or two either.

Finally, preparation is everything. Take time to nurture your marriage before you go through a deployment. Information on the Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation can be found at www.chaplaincare.navy.mil/index.htm. CREDO is a great way to strengthen your marriage during one of their marriage enrichment retreats. Building a love that lasts takes work before, during and after deployment. Even the best of marriages require consistent growth to survive choppy waters.



Is this your Chrysler?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots.

Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice.

For more information, please call 577-1276 or 577-4150.

MIRAMARKS

"What are the benefits of preparing a will before going on a deployment?"

LANCE CPL. CARLOS GARCIA
Administration Clerk
MWSS-373

"You have to make sure if something should happen, you give your things to the ones who need it. You have to make sure your loved ones are taken care of."



LANCE CPL. C.L. OLCOTT
Avionics Technician
MALS-16

"It helps with planning for the future. It is always good to have a backup plan."

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine remembered for making ultimate sacrifice

Story by Cpl. T.D. Smith

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

There was a roll call at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Airmen Memorial Chapel Sept. 27, but when Cpl. Bernardo Vasquez's name was yelled, a somber bugle call of Taps was the only response.

The tactical network specialist with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, had returned home for leave after serving seven months in Iraq.

While spending time with his family near the Trinity River in east Texas, he saw his uncle become overpowered by the water's currents. With no regard for his own safety and without hesitation, he jumped into the water to aid his uncle.

This last act, was indicative of the young Marine's unyielding self-sacrifice. This attribute was noticed by his fellow Marines, as he spent countless hours teaching Japanese children English while in Japan.

"From the moment I met him he was asking, 'Hey where is the church? Where

is the youth group so I can go help out?' He was just a very selfless person. He just seemed like that from the moment I met him," said Sgt. Stuart McFaden, tactical network administrator, MWCS-38. "He is going to be greatly missed within this unit. He was a great Marine, a great friend, a good brother, a good son and there will be no replacing him."

His generosity in action and spirit was equaled by his sharing of mirth. He had a gift for lightening the mood and his optimistic outlook and fun-loving attitude were consistently infectious. This too was what his fellow Marines had come to expect.

"I'll miss his humor. If we had gotten bad news in the beginning of the day, he would have a quote or goofy one-liners to make us all laugh," said Cpl. Zachary Smith, tactical network specialist, MWCS-38.

Selflessness was not the only trait Vasquez passed on to Marines both senior and junior. Those who worked with him admired his professionalism and ambition to complete tasks.

"We worked side by side for seven months, and he was the hardest worker I

"He had the ability to be a great leader. Everything he did, he did with passion ... He hasn't left our ranks. He is checking in to his new duty station."

Lance Cpl. Chad Vance
tactical network specialist, MWCS-38

have ever seen in my life. You would give him a task, and he would run with it. He would be there burning the midnight oil," said McFaden. "We would work day shift, and he would literally still be there at midnight. I would tell him to wait until tomorrow, and he would say 'No, no I want to get this done now.'"

"Even if he didn't complete a task in one day he wouldn't let it rest. If we had to leave for the day with a task unfinished, he would talk about it all night and then wake up early the next morning saying 'Let's get this done,'" said Lance Cpl. Chad Vance, tactical network specialist, MWCS-38.

Vance noticed other admirable traits in Vasquez that motivated him to strive to attain his potential as a Marine and a man.

"He had the ability to be a great leader.

Everything he did, he did with passion. He would look out for you no matter who you were, whether he had just met you, or you were one of his best friends. He would always be there for you," said Vance.

Even though Vasquez was not present for the roll call at his memorial service, his fellow Marines understood that he is not absent from their platoon, but rather he is taking on another watch.

"I think Cpl. Smith said it best at Vasquez's wake," said Vance. "He said the last two lines of the Marine Hymn are 'If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will see the streets are guarded by United States Marines' and we can actually visualize Vasquez. He hasn't left our ranks. He is checking in to his new duty station."

American Bar Association recognizes Miramar attorney

Story by Cpl. T.D. Smith

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – The American Bar Association Section of Family Law paid special recognition to a Miramar lawyer for outstanding achievement in family law at a conference at the Westin Horton Plaza Sept. 30.

The ABA chose to acknowledge Lt. Col. Paul Ryan, officer-in-charge, legal assistance office, Joint Law Center, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, in response to multiple nominations including one from the chief of legal assistance for the Marine Corps.

According to Patricia Apy, co-vice chair of the ABA's military committee, Ryan's office is one of the busiest legal assistance offices in the Marine Corps. Apy noted in her address that while Ryan's office staff is small they were able to facilitate 1,455 family law cases in the last fiscal year.

The award states Ryan focused his staff's efforts to help clients avoid contested divorces. This may reduce fees and in turn save the Marine or Sailor money. Ryan and his attorneys

"It is great that you can offer Marines and Sailors so much relief ... However we can often help them by avoiding litigation expenses."

Lt. Col. Paul Ryan
officer-in-charge, Legal Assistance Office

worked diligently to help Miramar's military personnel resolve cases before expensive litigation came into play.

"It can be a real financial hit if you allow your emotions to take over," said Ryan. "We try to approach the proceeding more like a business transaction. Only pursue those arguments where it makes sense."

The acknowledgement also cites that clients were routinely informed of family laws that are unique to San Diego. In San Diego, the court places great consideration on the written recommendation of an appointed mediator.

"Our office realizes the importance of the written recom-

mendation coming from the mediator. With that in mind, we pay particular attention to preparing the client for the mediation," said Ryan. "That process happens quite early in the case, and often they aren't ready and they can give away a lot of leverage they might have. So we really focus on getting them prepared."

The description in the award also commends Ryan for his intervention on behalf of divorced servicemembers whose children were going to be taken out of their school districts due to the servicemember's deployment. The children would have been moved to the parent at an alternate residence. However, his actions prevented the establishment of a precedence that would deprive children of educational stability, and ensures resolution of the issue without unnecessary litigation.

Ryan said he enjoyed his work and chose family law because, "It is great that you can offer Marines and Sailors so much relief. They come in all stressed because they think they are going to have to pay so much money. However we can often help them by avoiding litigation expenses and sometimes show them that they are actually owed money."



The 2005 Combined Federal Campaign is in effect through Dec. 19. CFC is one more way servicemembers can help defend and take care of fellow Marines and Sailors. There are many organizations that can help with everything from life threatening diseases or wounded veterans to tackling the plethora of challenges presented by Hurricane Katrina. The goal of this years CFC is 100 percent contact with all the Marines, Sailors and civilians of the Miramar area.

For more information, call 577-6631.

3rd MAW families connect through teleconferences

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“Hi Daddy, we love you. We miss you.”

With a few simple words and a wave to a television screen - even for just a few fleeting minutes - the challenges of deployment become a little easier to overcome.

Marines with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing are helping family members of their fellow Marines stay in touch with their loved ones through video teleconferences.

“(Video teleconferencing) is a great way for spouses and their children to see their loved ones,” said Lance Cpl. John Trussell, VTC coordinator, 3rd MAW, and a native of Rockwell, Texas. “We’ve helped make several teleconferences possible recently, so that deployed Marines can see their families and say ‘hello’ or just to let them know that they love them.”

Through periodic teleconferences, the 3rd MAW’s G-6 and Key Volunteer Network have made a positive difference through their concerted effort to help bring Marines and their families closer together emotionally while going through the physical separation of deployment.

“The feedback from spouses has been nothing but good. They love doing this,” said Mary Bradford, Marine Corps Team Building director, KVN, 3rd MAW. “We do what we can to get the word out and help schedule events like VTCs. Sometimes we have corporate sponsors out that also support teleconferences, but we schedule them with our squadron family readiness officers and wing headquarters for certain units that are deployed.”

Miramar spouses, many with children alongside them, have jumped at the chance to take advantage of the modern communication technology.

“This is the second time I’ve done something like this, and it’s so great to be able to see my husband and for our daughter Payton to see him and say ‘hi’ too,” said Angela Farley, wife of Staff Sgt. Andrew Farley, seat shop, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd MAW, whose Miramar-based squadron is currently serving out a deployment aboard the USS Nimitz. “We only get 8 to 10 minutes to talk, but its better than nothing. Sometimes being apart can be very hard, especially on our daughter who misses her daddy, but doing something like this, along with e-mail, makes such a big difference and makes being apart less difficult.”

Sitting alongside her daughter Payton, Angela Farley, wife of Staff Sgt. Andrew Farley, seat shop, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, whose Miramar-based squadron is currently serving out a deployment aboard the USS Nimitz, waits patiently inside 3rd MAW headquarters Sept. 29 before enjoying a video teleconference with her husband. Through the periodic teleconferences, the 3rd MAW’s G-6 and Key Volunteer Network have made a concerted effort to help bring Marines and their families closer together emotionally when going through the physical separation of deployment. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht



EOD provides force protection for Miramar

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A mail bomb lies on the cold floor of the post office. The bomb has potential to cause massive damage to the area and the surrounding buildings, so people have been evacuated.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit trained with this scenario Sept. 23, to ensure the safety of the Marines, Sailors and civilians on the station.

"Our main focus at Miramar is force protection," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert S. Schmidt, Explosive Ord-

nance Disposal officer, MCAS Miramar.

The exercise offered a realistic training scenario for EOD to test their readiness and response times.

"This is a training opportunity to evaluate a threat, devise a course of action and neutralize the threat," said Kevin T. Kelley, force protection program manager, MCAS Miramar. "It's realistic training. They don't know what they're dealing with, so they have to go through the same procedures as if it were real."

Preparation is key for EOD to be successful and adapt to the current battlefield.

"You have to train as you're going to fight," said Schmidt. "You don't want to find out you're not prepared. With new technology, the devices get more complex. So we train to defeat them."

For example, a mail bomb is not designed to blow up during transit.

"History has shown that a typical mail bomb is designed to explode when they are opened by the recipient and hurt him and those who are nearby," said Staff Sgt. Blanton J. Austin II, operations chief, military post office, MCAS Miramar.

There are specific characteristics that can identify a suspicious piece of mail or parcel.

"We look for abnormalities in mail or anything that is out of the norm," said Austin. "Whether it meets one indication or five, we take every situation seriously."

According to Austin, suspicious mail

includes illegible or insufficient return and forwarding addresses and fuel or chemicals odors. Sounds such as buzzing can also be an indicator of a bomb.

When a suspicious piece of mail is found, the military police are notified and they evacuate everyone from the area.

After the area is secured by the military police, EOD technicians move in to neutralize the bomb.

"We'll use an X-ray to examine the contents of the piece of mail in order to identify if it's a threat," said Schmidt. "Every remote means necessary is applied to lessen the chance of damaging property."

After the package is determined to be a threat, it's transported by the bomb squad to an area where it can be neutralized.

In this training scenario, the package containing the bomb was placed in between barriers where it was then detonated.

The EOD personnel successfully neutralized the bomb while preserving the evidence inside. The proper authorities could then check the contents for fingerprints to assist in bringing the suspect to justice. Lives count on EOD being prepared.

"These guys need to be ready to go," said Kelley. "If they were to mess up a scenario like this, it could be life or death. They have to be professional because lives depend on it."



Harnessing ‘heavy metal’ firepower

MAG-39 Marines refresh their crew-served weapons skills

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Though situations in combat environments are sometimes unpredictable and other times monotonous, there are certain situations in which Marines will need skills that aren’t directly related to their Military Occupational Specialty.

A group of 99 Marines from various squadrons throughout Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, participated in a machine gun training course, firing the M240G and M2 .50-caliber machine guns at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 23.

“The air wing needs to learn things like this,” said Gunnery Sgt. Antonio M. Rivera, ground training staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, MAG-39. “The way things are now, when they go overseas they may be doing their job during the day, but then they may have to stand post for the security of the air station in the evening or provide security for convoys.”

A total of 33,000 rounds were fired from the M2 and 19,000 from the M240G, all for the purpose of refreshing the Marines of MAG-39 on the fundamentals of both machine guns.

“You don’t want to use these guns if you don’t know what you are doing,” said Lance Cpl. Cory D. Miller, gunner, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. “If you know the basics about the weapon, then you can load it, unload it, sight in and fire it. It’s something that anyone can do.”

According to Miller, who was the instructor for the .50-caliber machine gun, everyone should at least learn



Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fire M2 .50-caliber machine guns at a range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 23. The training was designed as a refresher course for the skills the Marines originally learned at Marine Combat Training. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

how to use the two machine guns.

“Everyone should learn the basics of the machine guns in case they are ever in a situation that would require them to use them,” said Miller, a Wichita, Kan., native. “You never

know what it’s going to be like in a combat situation. You never know what will happen. If the person manning the gun happens to go down, you have to be able to step up there and take his place.”

Although Marines need to know the basics of the weapons, they don’t have to know more than what they’ve learned at Marine Combat Training.

“If you come out of MCT and do your job for the next three years and then come into a situation where you have to get behind that gun, other than knowing that the bullets come out of the barrel, you won’t know how to use it,” said Rivera, a Pittsburgh native. “They don’t need to learn more than what they were taught at MCT, but they should have a refresher course.”

However, training of this sort is getting harder to accomplish.

“Right now, it is getting harder on the Marine Corps for training, as here on Pendleton, the ranges are getting smaller and smaller,” Rivera said.

According to Lance Cpl. Zachary C. Hamel, dismount security, 2/5, who instructed the Marines on the M240G machine gun, the training also gives support Marines critical insight into what other units in the Marine Corps do - insight that is rare but enlightening.

“We learned about some of their jobs in the air wing and now they come to learn about ours,” said Hamel, a Benton Harbor, Mich., native. “It gives them a chance to experience a different MOS. It also helps to keep Marines from getting narrow-minded by thinking that their job is all Marines do. It lets them know that there is more to the Marine Corps.”

However, once the Marines rack the charging handles, site in down range and place well aimed rounds of hot metal on designated targets, there is a visible change in them.

“You can see that as soon as they start shooting the gun that they remember what they are doing,” concluded Rivera. “You can see it in their eyes, a definite change from when they were first sitting there looking at the weapon trying to remember all of the stuff that they had learned two or three years ago. It’s definitely one of those things that if you don’t use it, you lose it.”



Countless ammunition boxes sit covered and aligned at a range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 23. Ninety-nine Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, shot a total of 33,000 M2 .50-caliber rounds and 19,000 M240G rounds. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



Gunnery Sgt. Antonio M. Rivera (standing left), ground training staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, clears an M240G machine gun during a training evolution for MAG-39 at a firing range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 23. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



Spent .50-caliber machine gun shell casings sit inside wooden boxes after a training evolution for Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, at a firing range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 23. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

‘Raiders’ unveil KC-130J squadron flagship

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, welcomed the commanding officer's new KC-130J Hercules Sept. 27. The aircraft arrived here fresh from the assembly line at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Ga., with a custom paint job.

The aircraft's vertical stabilizer is painted black and a "Raiders" logo, designed by former C-130 Marines, is displayed in the high center of the tail. Alphanumeric characters and national star insignias are also highlighted on the aircraft.

"This is unique to the C-130 community," said Nick Dicandia, contract field supervisor, Lockheed Martin. "This is the first time a KC-130J has been painted like this."

Naval air regulations authorize each squadron to paint unit colors and insignias on one of its aircraft. The regulations limit the graphics to covering the tail and no more than 25 percent of the aircraft's fuselage.

Although some paint can cause problems on radar, the paint used on the aircraft will not negatively affect the aircraft's radar signature.



Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, welcome the commanding officer's KC-130J Sept. 27 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The vertical stabilizer is painted black and a "Raiders" logo is displayed on it. Naval air regulations authorize each squadron to paint unit colors and insignias on one of its aircraft. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

"Different colored paints reflect radar at various rates," said Dicandia, a 57-year-old native of Newport, N.C.. "This paint meets or exceeds military requirements for reflection capability."

However, regulations prohibit aircraft with these graphics from participating in combat operations. Regulations require commanding officers to ensure that camou-

crew will also be present to answer any questions."

This aircraft is similar to a mascot for the unit because it will amplify that Miramar is the home of VMGR-352.

"The aircraft will turn some heads," concluded Dicandia. "This makes it unique and identifies the squadron within the wing. It instills pride in the Marines of the unit."

flage standards are restored before the aircraft operates in hostile environments.

"The colors make the aircraft stand out," said Maj. John M. Koury, maintenance officer, VMGR-352. "You can see it coming from farther away."

The aircraft is restrained from operating in combat operations but is authorized to perform non-combat missions such as air deliveries and refuelings.

"The aircraft will be used for missions not involved in combat areas," said Koury, a 40-year-old native of Cumberland, R.I. "The graphics will prevent this aircraft from going to Iraq."

The squadron plans to display the aircraft during the 2005 Miramar Air Show.

"It can be good for publicity," said Koury. "This KC-130J will be used as a static display so civilians can go inside it and see the aircraft. A



A new KC-130J for the commanding officer of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, arrived Sept. 27, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The vertical stabilizer is painted black and a "Raiders" logo is displayed on it. The aircraft arrived fresh from the assembly line at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Ga. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

Feature

Marines enhance combat skills

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Dew covered the soft grass beneath the faint glow of the morning sun as two Marines settled down into position, sitting back to back.

Both sat with their hands and feet braced, ready to spin around at the sound of the whistle that would start their one-minute grappling match. A faint anticipation had both shaking as their muscles tensed with the hunger to make the other be the first to tap out.

Grappling is a form of training that Marines go through during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to gauge their techniques and their ability to apply them against an opponent.

“MCMAP is a lot of things,” said Sgt. Franklin L. Quiros, utilities chief, Combat Service Support Company 134, Combat Service Support Group 15, 1st Force Service Support Group. “It not only teaches Marines how to fight, but it builds their confidence.

“You have Marines that haven’t been too aggressive in their past lives — before they joined the Marine Corps,” added Quiros, a black belt instructor. “All of a sudden, they join the Marine Corps and learn a little bit of MCMAP, and they are extremely motivated. It is a great confidence builder.”

However, a lot of Marines give up on MCMAP before they really get started.

“A lot of Marines go through the tan belt and get fed up with it,” said Quiros. “It’s not until you reach the green belt that you can really develop some killer moves. If Marines would just tough the process out, they would begin to see a difference.

“Several Marines are like, ‘I’ll never use the basic warrior stance. I’ll never use these sweeps,’” Quiros, a Woodbridge, Va., native, added. “The further you get in MCMAP, the better the techniques are that you apply. It’s not an easy process, and a lot of people get fed up with it and quit.”

Marines can only proceed so far at any given time in MCMAP, as there are specific requirements for advancement to the next belt level.

According to Marine Administrative

Message 537/01, all Marines are required to achieve the level of tan belt. Any Marine can go up to gray belt. Lance corporals and above can go to green belt, corporals and above can go to brown belt, and sergeants and above can go to black belt.

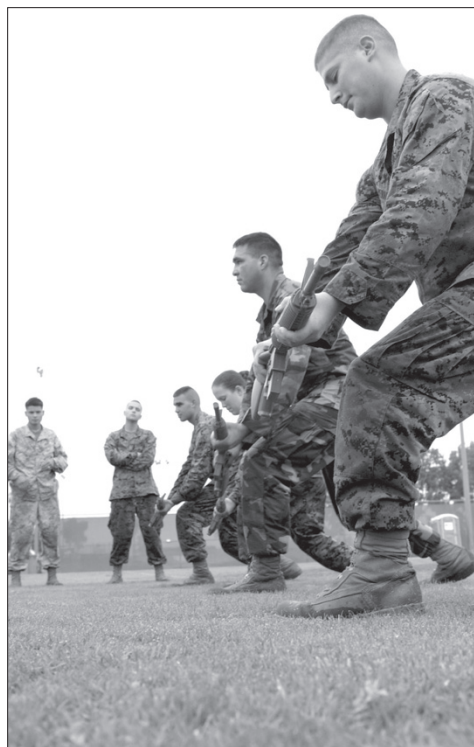
“It’s a leadership thing,” said Sgt. John Timberlake, training noncommissioned officer, CSSC-134. “The more advanced you get, the more advanced the techniques are. The Marine Corps doesn’t want an 18-year-old lance corporal, who hasn’t quite grown up yet, to have more skills than they can handle. They could really hurt someone.

“They want to make sure the person is responsible and mature,” added Timberlake. “That is why there are requisites for rank and (Professional Military Education) courses, so they do not abuse what they’ve learned.”

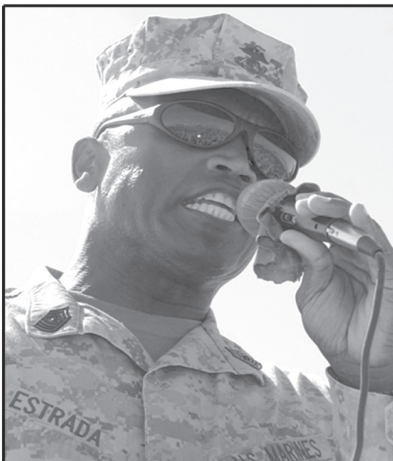
However, to keep the skills Marines have earned, they need some kind of continuing training.

“In my opinion, a Marine should do sustaining training twice a week,” said Quiros. “If you do not do it often enough, you will forget it. I have the advantage of teaching it every week, so I become more proficient at it than others. However, for a minimum though, I would say Marines should at least have some form of training twice a week for two hours.”

Marines with Marine Air Control Squadron 1, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, execute a low block with their weapons during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training session at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Sept. 15. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke



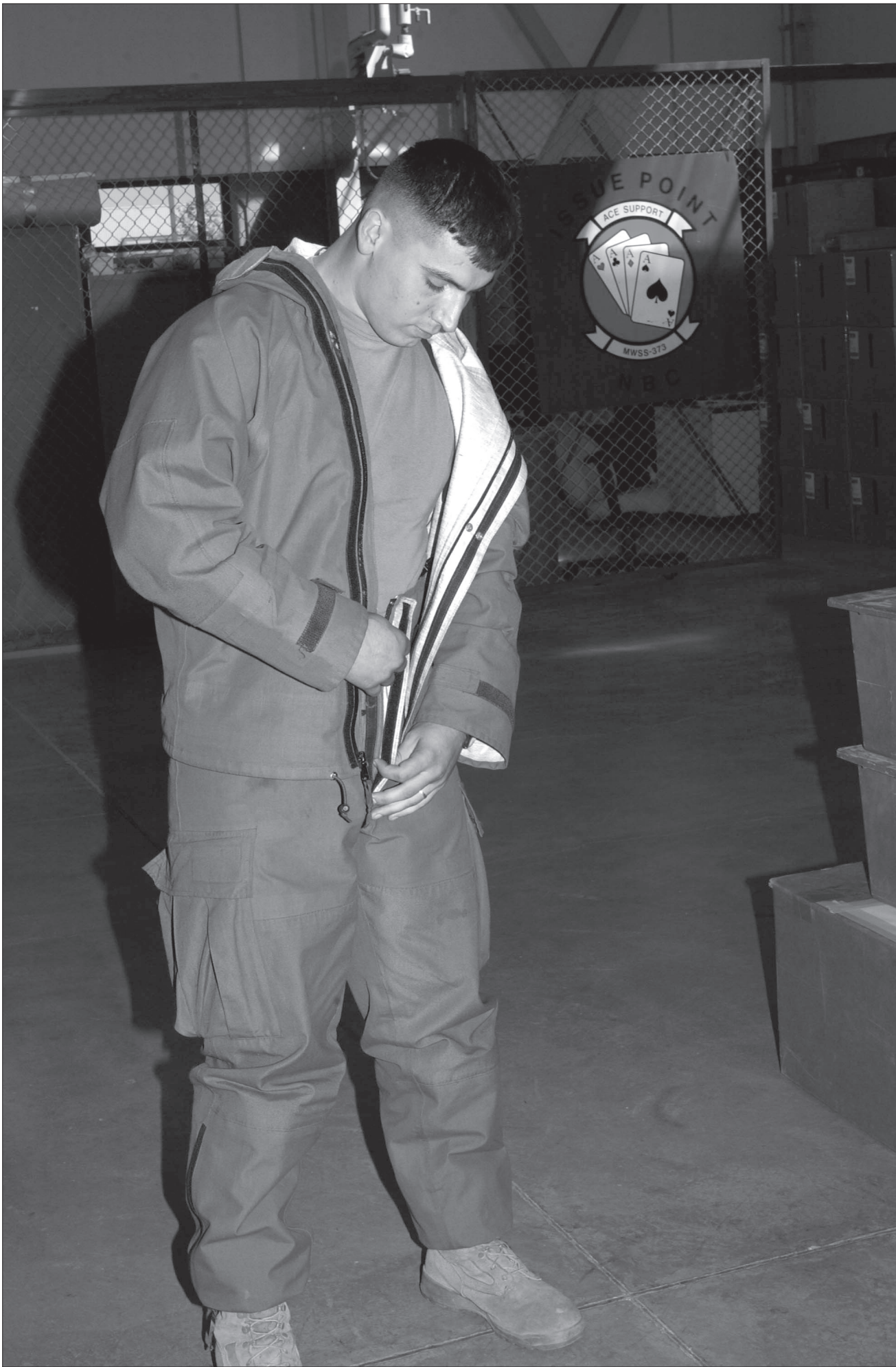
SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

An appreciative audience awaits

Marines test new MOPP gear for durability



Corporal Genadiy K. Khadzhi, military policeman, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, finishes donning his prototype Mission Oriented Protective Posture suit at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Sept. 13. Marines participating in the testing of new MOPP gear have to wear the equipment for 480 hours in their normal working environment to measure durability. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

As the heat from the Iraqi sun beats down on a platoon of Marines wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture equipment, fatigue begins to set in. While carrying out their mission, the bulkiness of their gear and the heat is a liability, preventing mission accomplishment.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is participating in testing new prototype MOPP gear for the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps wants equipment that will better accommodate the troops and eliminate those common deficiencies.

“The Marine Corps is looking for something lighter, more durable and with better protection,” said Steve G. Gearin, test director, Sverdrup Technologies Inc. “We’re testing suits from private industries who are competing on making the new suits.”

Durability is part of the required criteria for the new equipment. The testing of the suits is focused on the endurance of the suit and its performance under pressure.

“The durability of the suits is tested in a working environment,” said Gearin.

Marines who are participating in the testing have to wear the suit many hours during their normal workdays. This is to test whether the suit can withstand numerous hours of wear and tear under normal working conditions.

“Marines wear the equipment for 480 hours in their normal working environment to test the durability of the suit,” said Gearin.

After the suit’s durability is tested, the equipment must go through chemical tests at Dougway Military Proving Grounds, Utah. The chemical test assesses how protective the suits are after they have been worn out from Marines working in them.

“A major contributing factor for deciding which equipment works is how well it protects during a chemical test,” said Gearin.

After testing is finished, the Marines who wore the equipment will submit feedback.

“At the end of our testing, every Marine who wore the suit will answer a questionnaire based on comfort, durability and user friendliness,” said Gearin. “This feedback will give us information on what equipment doesn’t work and how we can improve it.”

All the data compiled from the tests will be compared with the old suits to determine what areas failed.

Most Marines who wore the suit agree the equipment is more comfortable than the older suit.

“It’s beneficial to the individual wearing the suit,” said Cpl. Genadiy K. Khadzhi, military policeman, MWSS-373. “It’s not as hot, because there’s more air flowing through it and it’s easier to get into and out of.”

Although most Marines can agree with the comfort, there have been some deficiencies with the new prototype. The new suits are equipped with a liner that has an elastic band on the sleeves that some Marines think is not needed.

“The elastic bands trap the sweat inside,” said Lance Cpl. Curtis Baccus, utilities electrician, MWSS-373. “After wearing it for so long, the suit begins to stink.”

The overall reason for the testing is to make sure the Marines have the best equipment available to them.

“Our Marines fight in rugged terrain, so we want to make sure these garments can maintain enough durability to protect them during a chemical attack,” concluded Gearin.

PACE, continued from page 1

His third priority is to strengthen joint warfighting capability. He said the U.S. military must transition “from an interoperable to an interdependent force.” The fights in Afghanistan and Iraq have been more joint than any before, officials said. Still, much more can - and must be - done.

Pace said this move toward jointness does not mean a diminution of the service cultures. “I want you to bring

your service perspective to the decision process,” he wrote. The strength of this staff, like the strength of the nation, lies in the articulation of multiple views. Individual service perspectives brought together jointly foster better solutions, which we then execute in a joint framework.”

His final priority is to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. “Bringing our people home alive and intact is ‘Quality of Life Job No. 1,’” he wrote. “The best leadership, the most innovative tactics, the best equipment and the best force protection are indispensable to this goal.”

**To report fraud, waste or abuse,
call (858) 577-1245 and please
include a description of the
abuse, the original source of the
incident, any proof of evidence,
location, date and time.**

Briefs

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:
6:30 p.m. Valiant (G)
9:30 p.m. The 40 Year Old Virgin (R)

Saturday:
6:30 p.m. March of the Penguins (G)
9:15 p.m. *The Skeleton Key (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. *The Dukes of Hazzard (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. *Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo (R)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. The Brothers Grimm (PG-13)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. Valiant (G)
6:30 p.m. The Four Brothers (R)

*Indicates last showing for that film

Drop In Childcare

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Youth Center now offers weekday drop-in childcare for infants and children. The cost is \$4 per hour or \$1 per 15-minute time period. There is a limit of 24 hours maximum per child per week. Parents must also supply comfort items and diapers. Reservations two weeks in advance may be necessary and can be made by calling the Youth Center at 577-4136.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Largest Yellow Ribbon

Show support for our troops at the 2005 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show Oct. 15 at 9:00 a.m. where an anticipated 5,000 people will form the world's largest human yellow ribbon.

The record will be set on the flight line and photographed by media from the air.

To be a part of this event, yellow T-shirts for your organization, family or company are available for purchase at all San Diego County Wal-Mart stores, Miramar Main Exchange, Marine Mart and the uniform shop.

All funds from the purchase go directly to support the quality of life programs for servicemembers and their families at Miramar.

For more information, call 577-6365.

Ball Gown Giveaway

The Officers' Wives Club is hosting a birthday ball gown giveaway for family members of all active-duty Marines E-6 and below with valid I.D. at the Miramar Thrift Store tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 271-4633

Pre-Ball L.I.N.K.S. Session

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Lifestyles, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills House is hosting a pre-Marine Corps birthday ball session tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the L.I.N.K.S. House located in Bldg. 2273.

The session is designed for new and veteran Marine spouses.

For more information, call 577-4810.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1999 Ford Ranger	CA/6B05453	1994 Pontiac Grand Am	CA/3STS043
1980 Chevy Camaro	CA/5EVA702	1988 Ford Aerostar	CA/2HRJ429
2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse	MA/2077YG	1981 Toyota Voyager	CA/1X52503
1969 VW Beetle	CA/4XJN744	1986 Chevy Camaro	CA/POU820
1995 Ford Mustang	CA/3NEM750	2003 Dodge Intrepid	CA/4YSK851
1990 Acura Integra	CA/2SIJ098	1999 Chevy Cavalier	CA/5FSV493